

# ROTOVUE

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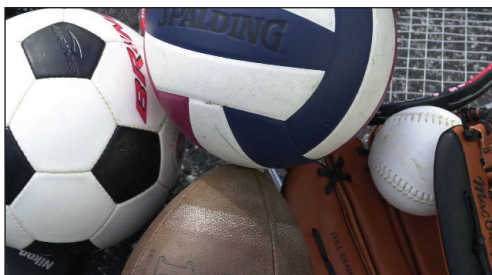
April 23, 2003

Vol. 42 No. 7

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**Having an 'eggcellent' time  
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# FLIGHTLINES

## Vietnam Vets Recognition Day

April 30 is the twenty-eighth anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. A ceremony will be held for Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day at the Aviation Memorial at 10 a.m.

Retired Marine Corps colonel Wayne E. Morris will be the guest speaker for the event.

Because of this event the **main gate will be closed at 9:45 for both in coming and out going traffic.**

## National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week will be celebrated April 27-May 3. This is a time to honor the efforts of those who generously donate their time and talents. Volunteer support is vital to the Marine Corps community, particularly during this time of deployment. The unselfish efforts of Marines, family members and civilians allow us to extend the reach of Marine Corps programs.

All commanders are encouraged to express their gratitude with appropriate activities that demonstrate our appreciation for their volunteer efforts.

-Message from Gen. M.W. Hagee, commandant USMC.

## OWC Luncheon

The New River Officers' Wives' Club invites OWC members from Camp LeJeune and Cherry Point for the annual OWC Joint Luncheon.

This year's luncheon will be held at the New River Officers' Club on Tuesday April 29. A social hour will

begin at 10:30 AM with lunch to follow at 11:30 AM. Our guest speaker will be Marine Corps Historian Capt. Marion F. Sturkey. For more information, contact Dawn at (910) 324-4162.

## New River to get New Tiltrotor Squadron

Activation of Marine Tiltrotor Operational Test and Evaluation Squadron-22 will take place in fiscal year 2003. The VMX-22 squadron will be responsible for the operational testing and evaluation of the MV-22 Osprey and future tiltrotor related systems.

## Thrift Savings Plan Info

The next Thrift Savings Plan open season will run from April 15-June 30. This is the only time Marines on active duty will be afforded the opportunity to enroll in this program. During the open season Marines are given the chance to invest eight percent of their base pay up to \$12,000.

The most efficient way for Marines to enroll in TSP is using MYPAY. To establish a MYPAY account call 1-877-363-3677.

For more information about TSP check out the Marine Online website at: [www.mol.usmc.mil](http://www.mol.usmc.mil) or on the TSP website at: [www.TSP.gov](http://www.TSP.gov).

## Like to Bike?

Support war, peace, troops and their families by participating in the Outdoor Stationary and Road Cycling

Fun Challengege. The event takes place April 29, and starts at 3:30 p.m. and lasts until 9 p.m. Road cycling will consist of one 8-mile lap around the base.

Please bring your own bike, water and towel. Every hour you ride you will receive a yellow ribbon. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information call 449-6003.

## B-I-N-G-O

Play Bingo every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. Bingo is also played Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Staff Club. Bingo is open to all ranks and their guests.

For more information call 449-0589.

## Spring Fling Tennis

May 10 at the New River Tennis Courts, Marine Corps Community Services will be holding the Spring Fling Tennis Tournament at 5 p.m. Entry is \$10 for singles and \$15 for doubles. You can register at the MCCS main office. The registration deadline is May 7.

For more information call 449-5609.

## Armed Forces Day Softball Tournament

The Armed Forces Day Softball Tournament will be held May 16-18 at the New River Softball fields.

The tournament is open to Military intramural level softball teams. The tournament will follow ASA rules and will be a double elimination format.

There will be awards for teams placing 1st-3rd and individual awards for those placing in the top two. The entry fee is \$100 per team and the registration deadline is May 14.

For more information call 449-5609.

## Coca-Cola Softball Tournament

The Coca-Cola Classic Softball Tournament will be held June 13-15 at the New River Softball fields. The tournament is open to the public for class C and below. The tournament will follow ASA rules and will be a double elimination format. There will be awards for teams placing 1st-3rd and individual awards for those placing in the top two. The entry fee is \$150 per team and the registration deadline is June 11.

For more information call 449-5609.

## Soccer Camp

Kickin' Osprey Summer Camp will be going July 7-11 at the New River Youth Sports Complex soccer field. Registration starts June 2 and goes through July 1.

Registration is \$50 per person. For more information call 449-6711.

## On the Cover

**Hunter Otis grabs Easter eggs during the Marine Aircraft Group-29 Family Day Easter Egg Hunt. During the Family Day participants enjoyed free food and a movie.**

Photo by  
Cpl. Wayne Campbell



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If you have any comments or suggestions you may also contact the public affairs office at (910) 449-6196 or fax (910) 449-6478.

# 'Iron Horses' Gallop into Horn of Africa

**Combined Joint Task Force**  
CJTF-HOA Public Affairs

**CAMP LEMONIER, DJIBOUTI (April 12, 2003)** -- Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) increased its capability to fight the Global War on Terrorism across the region Friday with the arrival of a detachment of CH-53E Super Stallion heavy lift helicopters and nearly 100 personnel including pilots, crew chiefs, maintenance personnel and a headquarters group.

The "Iron Horses" of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 (HMH-461) from Marine Corps Air Station, New River, N.C. arrived on some of the world's largest planes, C-5 Galaxy aircraft from the U.S. Air Force's Air Mobility Command. Lt. Col. Larry Fulwiler, squadron commanding officer for HMH-461, said the length of the detachment's stay in Djibouti is for the duration of the CJTF-HOA mission, although routine rotation of personnel is authorized.

The CJTF-HOA headquarters, formed specifically to oversee operations in the Horn of Africa for U.S. Central Command in support of the Global War on Terrorism, has a focused mission - to detect, disrupt and defeat transnational terrorist groups in the region and support Coalition part-

ner efforts to deny the opportunity for reemergence of terrorist networks in the Horn of Africa.

The Iron Horse detachment provides CJTF-HOA organic operational reach and flexibility to support of a wide variety of counter-terrorism activities across the Horn of Africa region.

The Sikorsky Super Stallion helicopters are compatible with most amphibious class ships and can carry an internal load of 69,750 pounds and an external load of 73,500 pounds. The helicopters seat 37 passengers in normal configuration and have provisions to carry 55 passengers with centerline seats installed.

Additionally, the CH-53E has a 621 mile range without refueling, although with its refueling probe, it can be refueled in flight giving the helicopter unlimited range. The Super Stallion's three-member crew can readily move equipment, supplies and personnel over rugged terrain, bad weather and at night.

For its mission, CJTF-HOA defines the Horn of Africa region as the total airspace, land areas and coastal waters of Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Yemen. CH-53E helicopters are currently deployed worldwide in support of ongoing operations. Recent employment of the aircraft includes action during Operation



Cpl. Paula M. Fitzgerald

**Marines belonging to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 offload a CH-53E helicopter from an Air Force C-5 in Djibouti, April 11. HMH-461 is here in support of Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa.**

Eastern Exit in Somalia in 1990.

Two Super Stallions launched from amphibious ships, flew 532 miles at night and refueled twice in flight to support the actions of U.S. and foreign allies at the American Embassy in Mogadishu.

Additionally, two CH-53Es were used in the recovery of U.S. Air Force pilot Capt. Scott O'Grady in Bosnia in June 1995.

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 was initially activated in

1944 and made its first operational flights with the CH-53E helicopter in 1987. The 400-member CJTF headquarters is embarked aboard one of the U.S. Navy's most sophisticated command and control ships, USS Mount Whitney, out of Norfolk, Va.

With the addition of HMH-461 personnel, CJTF-HOA now has more than 1,300 personnel stationed ashore at Camp Lemonier in Djibouti and a small number of liaison personnel working in other parts of the region.

## Osprey squadron gets new wind beneath their wings

**Sgt. Christine C. Odom**  
correspondent

Dark clouds and drizzling rain were no match for a squadron of Marines who were formed up for the Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron-204 change of command and retirement ceremony held at their hangar April 11.

While the weather was less than favorable, many guests were still in attendance as Col. Richard H. Dunnivan relinquished command of the "White Knights" to Lt. Col. Richard B. Preble, who was formerly the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-266 commanding officer.

After 30 years of honorable and faithful service, Dunnivan will retire from the Marine Corps to his home in Washington, D.C. He will continue his civilian career with Organizational Strategies, Incorporated as the vice president in charge of Department of Defense programs. The company specializes in homeland security and is mainly staffed with prior service employees.

According to Maj. Gen. John G. Castellaw, commanding general of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, Dunnivan is one of the most professionally compe-

tent Marines he's served with and thanked him for his friendship and his contribution to the Marine Corps. General Castellaw wished him well as he continues to support the Corps in his next career.

"Col. Dunnivan has done a really great job with the squadron, and he will definitely be missed," said Preble. "I'm just going to pick up the ball where he left off and continue with the same level of leadership and tradition."

Preble, a native of Milan, Ind., is no stranger to the MV-22 Osprey. After graduating from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College in 1997 with a master's degree in Military Studies, he was assigned to the Aviation Staff at Headquarters Marine Corps where he served as the Osprey coordinator at the Aviation Weapons Requirements Branch.

Because of Preble's prior experience with the Osprey, Dunnivan says he is comfortable with leaving the squadron in Preble's capable hands and is certain he will continue to do the same things that will make the squadron successful.

"He (Preble) is taking command of a great squadron, and I know he's going to do the same good things with the squadron," said Sgt. Maj. Roderick S. Fuller, VMMT-204 sergeant major. "We're very for-

tunate to have Lt. Col. Preble come aboard."

Though Fuller is looking forward to the new experience and challenges he'll face with Preble, he cannot forget the friendship he has shared with Dunnivan.

"Col. Dunnivan is the best CO I have had the pleasure of working with, and I couldn't have asked for a better CO," added Fuller.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

**Col. Richard H. Dunnivan, former CO of VMMT-204, and Lt. Col. Richard B. Preble, new CO of VMMT-204, exchange the Colors at the change of command ceremony April 11th.**

# Marines make you smile

**Master Gunnery Sgt.  
Billy D. Stewart**  
contributor



Recently I was looking through some photos of Leathernecks at last year's Marine Corps Ball. As I browsed through each picture I couldn't help but think that many of them are deployed in harms way. However, one thing about each picture overtook the moment.

Evidently, they were all Marines, but at the same time I remembered that each one was very unique and charismatic. Marines are "characters," plain and simple. I have often asked myself; where in the world did this Marine come from? Many of them possess hidden talents and the ability to entertain virtually anyone.

Anyone that has sported the eagle, globe and anchor can tell you that there is something appealing and mesmerizing about Marines, in that they keep us all smiling. Even in the worst of times. If you have ever seen the movie "Heartbreak Ridge" some of the personalities of today's Marines are not too far off the mark.

I can recall some of the characters that Clint Eastwood as Gunny Highway, had to deal with. Although they were fictitious, their personalities are very similar to those in our Corps. I can remember Lance Cpl. Profile. He was so clumsy he about wiped out his Company Commander while clearing his weapon on the rifle range. His punishment was to run around the platoon while they humped back to the company area. He was somewhat viewed as an amusing klutz that made a complete turn around and wanted to stay Marine. Next, Cpl. "Stitch" Jones was a makeshift rapper/rocking roller that

never went anywhere without his "plastic" credit cards. Luckily, the credit cards saved their lives when he used them to call in subsequent air strikes via the phone line to Camp Lejeune. The irony of it all, was that the movie was somewhat based on a true story. Again, while I'm sure the characters were taken to the extreme, the fact remains that Marines keep the smiles going anytime and anyplace. According to the press, in the middle of the war in Iraq, a Marine lance corporal has gripped a nation causing us all to smile a little more than we have in the previous days by introducing the "Baghdad Boogie."

Lance Cpl. Alex Rivera Jr. had a break in the action as his unit found themselves dealing with some Iraqi children and their families. The look of the saddened children caused Rivera to "lighten things up." He jumped up on his Hummer in the middle of the desert and proceeded to teach the children how to follow his dance moves and repeat his rap chants. It was evident that the children caught on quick and had the moves down in no time. The smiles on their faces as Lance Cpl. Rivera gave each of them a piece of candy embodied something very special. It personified the very spirit of what the Corps strives for; to do what is right. He gained their trust and proved that America's intolerance was not against the Iraqi people, but against Saddam's murderous regime. Through his charisma and ability to stay motivated in his own unique way, he did great things for both the American and Iraqi people. Taking the edge off when times are rough is nothing new to the Corps.

In the book, *The Marines of Autumn*, James Brady describes the chilling saga of the Marines fighting in the mountains of North Korea near the Chosin Reservoir. The intense story was laced with the humorous, yet proficient shenanigans of a

young twice busted corporal named "Mouse" Izzo. No matter how rough things got, Cpl. Izzo kept everyone on their toes, including his company gunny and captain. He was a prior infantryman in WWII turned driver in Korea. He was a reservist recalled to active duty for the war. He could find practically anything that a Marine unit was in need of. His charisma as a former used car salesman proved invaluable in convincing others that his motives were in their best interest. While never disrespectful, Izzo did more for the Marines in Korea than he would ever know. Through his outrageous personality, he enabled the tension to be relieved at just the right times. Somehow Marines do the craziest and most spontaneous acts coupled with a humorous twist at just the right times.

Just this week in Iraq, even the officers got into the act. As the Marines made their way into Baghdad, many bridges were destroyed and unable to be crossed. A crossing point had to be found to determine if the armored vehicles would be able to successfully negotiate the obstacle and advance. Supposedly after unsuccessful attempts to determine a reliable crossing point, an impatient and aggressive Marine major took the initiative by stripping down to his skivvies and swimming to the other side of the river/stream to find a crossing point for the battalion. Not only did he find a crossing point, but he found the optimal spot needed to take his unit across. How is that for setting the example?

The humorous honesty, actions and spontaneity of Marines is sometimes the silver lining in the dark cloud that hovers over the worst of situations. While there is a time and place for everything, I believe that Marines have a hilarious sense of timing that takes the edge off at just the precise moment. Marines sure are special. God Bless them all and Semper Fi.

# It was their duty to give shoes to Djibouti

**CJTF-HOA Public Affairs  
Release**

**CAMP LEMONIER, DJIBOUTI** -- Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) recently provided assistance to non-governmental organizations (NGO) in the receipt of some 15,000 pairs of footwear donated to the people of Djibouti by Payless ShoeSource, Inc. of Topeka, Kan.

The CJTF-HOA, in cooperation with the Salesians Missions charity organization and former Alabama Senator Jeremiah A. Denton Jr.'s National Forum Foundation, Project TRANSFORM, served as the receiving and transfer agent for the Payless ShoeSource donation, valued at nearly \$200,000.

United States Navy Capt. Donald F. Lerow, CJTF-HOA chaplain, who assisted in overseeing the effort, explained the process saying, "Payless had a bunch of shoes they wanted to give to the people in Djibouti, so they got in contact with a Catholic charity called Salesians.

"Then the Salesians contacted the National Forum Foundation to help with shipping. The shoes were brought to the Djibouti Port and delivered to us."

Upon delivery of the footwear from the Port of Djibouti to CJTF-HOA facilities at Camp Lemonier, and

on the recommendation of the Salesians Missions, Lerow contacted the Djibouti office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), who assisted in determining which NGOs would ultimately receive the Payless Shoe Source donation.

"We thought it best to let two charities have the shoes so that it doesn't seem any religious group is being favored," said Roger L. Bottrahy, Djibouti UNICEF program commander. "We chose Caritas, a Catholic NGO, and Bender Djedid, a Muslim NGO."

Bottrahy added that he is very pleased with the generous donation and noted that the footwear will benefit many of the people of Djibouti, as well as local refugee populations.

Payless ShoeSource, Inc. is North America's largest family footwear retailer and through the Payless ShoeSource Foundation, it is dedicated to improving quality of life, regularly providing donations to the United Way among other charitable organizations.

The Denton Program is a non-profit transportation venture, coordinating the use of space-available U.S. military transportation, enabling donor organizations to ship millions of pounds of cargo at low or no cost to countries around the globe.

The National Forum Foundation's Project TRANSFORM (Transportation

for the Relief of Mankind) arranges for commercial air, land and sea transportation for United States donor groups to deliver goods to final destinations.

Prior to terms in the U.S. Senate, Denton served 34 years as a naval aviator, retiring as a rear admiral. Notably, he spent seven years, seven months as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. He was released on February 12, 1973, and received international attention as the spokesman for the first group of POWs returning from Hanoi to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines.

Lerow plans to expand the CJTF relationship with NGOs, commenting, "Since this is the first time we've worked with these NGOs, we want to make sure everything works out well. Then, hopefully, we'll be able to work with them again in the future to further help the Djiboutian people."

The CJTF headquarters was



Cpl. Paula M. Fitzgerald

**Host-nation workers here load boxes of shoes onto a truck from the Muslim non-government organization Bender Djedid. The shoes were donated by Payless ShoeSource, Inc. and sent here to members of the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa for distribution to neighboring villages.**

formed to oversee counter-terrorism operations in the Horn of Africa region for U.S. Central Command. In addition to detecting, disrupting and defeating transnational terrorism in the region, CJTF-HOA also is countering the reemergence of terrorism through civil-military operations and support of NGO operations to assist in enhancing the long-term stability of the region.

# Station squadron, grunts tie the knot

**Sgt. Juan Vara**  
correspondent

**MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, ARIZ.** -- While conducting Exercise Diamond Thrust 03 here, personnel from Marine Aircraft Group-26 and 6th Marine Regiment have been spending a lot of time working hand-in-hand.

Recently, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-266 and Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167 teamed up with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, to get 16 Marines qualified as Helicopter Rope and Suspension Training Masters.

According to Capt. Edward P. Mullin, air officer of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment and Allenton, Pa., native, this type of training is usually conducted only during preparations for deployment with a Marine Expeditionary Unit.

"We're leaning forward and going beyond normal work-up cycles," said Mullin. "There's so much training value gained by it that we needed to have it. We're adding a lot to our bag of tricks."

Corporal James R. Mcilvaine, a HRST master with Charlie Co., 1/6 and North Beach, Md., native, said this gives the Marines in the company an opportunity to learn how to fast rope and do Special

Insertion/Extraction (SPIE) rigging.

"We'll be doing a lot of this with the 22nd MEU," said Mcilvaine. "Our job is to see that safety is always paramount so everybody arrives alive."

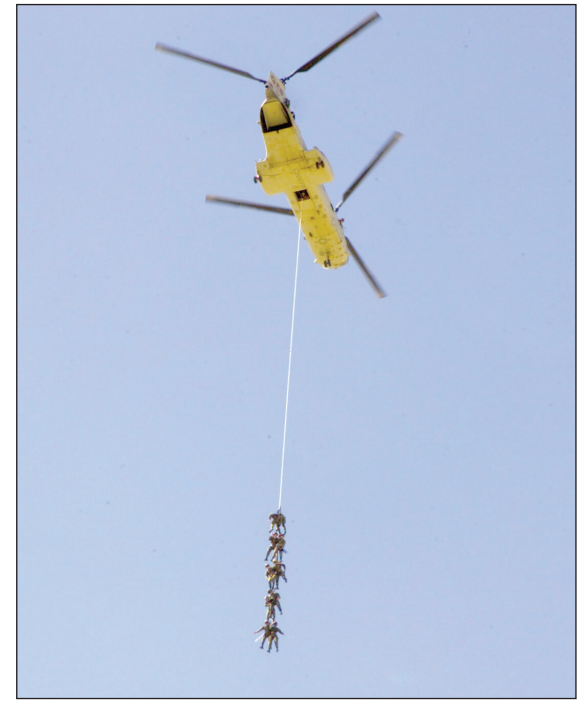
Mullin said SPIE rigging is a very effective extract technique used anytime there's no place for a helicopter to land, as well as in special operations, to extract non-military personnel.

"It's a great tool," he added. "It teaches you a lot of confidence, and you learn to suspend yourself using your hands and quick knowledge of knots."

In July, the "Fighting Griffins" of HMM-266 are scheduled to become the Aviation Combat Element of the 22nd MEU. Charlie Co., 1/6, is scheduled to be the helicopter-born company of the MEU's Ground Combat Element.

"It was a natural fit to be able to deploy here and train," said Capt. John F. Vazquez, commanding officer of Charlie Co., 1/6. "It's a tremendous advantage because of the real world situation. This is an environment very similar to what we would face if we were to go into combat."

Exercise Diamond Thrust 03 is being conducted by several units from the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, with the support of Charlie Co., 1/6, in preparation for possible involvement in Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Sgt. Juan Vara

**A CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-266 flies over the Arizona desert with 10 Marines hanging from a rope, while conducting Helicopter Rope and Suspension Training, April 11.**

# Remembering Marine Corps' history

**Sgt. Christine C. Odom**  
Release

The story of the Marine Corps can be told in many different ways, but the memory doesn't always recall all the details of those pivotal moments without some reminder of what really happened.

In an effort to bring to light some of the significant milestones the Corps has made in the Carolinas, a group of private citizens endorsed by the Onslow County Commissioners and the mayor of Jacksonville have created a committee that has raised funds in support of the Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas.

The museum will recognize the contributions of the members of the Naval services, especially those Marines and Sailors from New River, Camp Lejeune and MCAS Cherry Point.

As part of a community resolution to improve downtown Jacksonville, Onslow County and the City of Jacksonville have plans to revitalize downtown Jacksonville by constructing the museum and a Hilton Hotel and Comfort Center in that area.

Furthermore, construction of the museum will bring in more tourists and benefit the community by creating jobs, improving the economy and increasing the public's knowledge of the Marine Corps.

"The Marine Corps has been a big part of Jacksonville since 1941, but not

many people know this because we don't have a museum here that commemorates what our Marines have done," said retired Sgt. Maj. Joseph L. Houle, director of the Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas.

Currently Houle and many of the committee members are gathering memorabilia to help create the exhibits for the museum. The exhibits range from showcasing different aircraft, tanks and jeeps to weapons, artillery, uniforms and uniform items. There will also be equipment used in World War II and Operation Desert Storm displayed, as well as photos and drawings of famous Marines.

Unfortunately, it's not an easy task to find the memorabilia, and according to Houle, it requires a great deal of manpower. There are currently three paid museum employees who rely on the support of volunteers to staff the museum.

One volunteer, in particular, feels passionate about telling the Marine Corps story. Tonya L. Nagle is the volunteer coordinator, and she has been volunteering her services full-time since January to ensure the success of the museum.

When Nagle first arrived in North Carolina as a Marine, she was disappointed to discover there wasn't a museum in Jacksonville. She thought it odd that Marines weren't being recognized for their hard work and sacrifice.

"I volunteered at the museum



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

## The Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas opens in 2005.

because it needed to be done," said Nagle. "There are a lot of people who really care and want to support the Marine Corps."

Individuals can show their support for the museum by donating any items pertaining to the Corps, contributing money or purchasing a brick, which will be used to pave the walkways of the museum.

Bricks come in two sizes; the larger one is \$150 while the smaller one is \$100. Anyone purchasing the brick can have it inscribed with any name. "It's a great way for people to be remembered when the museum is final-

ly complete," said Houle. "Families can bring their children and see either their dad's name or their grandpa's name on a brick as they're coming into the museum."

Marines who want to see the history of the Corps in the Carolinas will have to wait for the museum's completion in 2005.

The museum is a non-profit organization and donations made are tax exempted.

For more information about the Marine Corps Museum of the Carolinas call Joseph L. Houle or Angela A. Seevers at 937-0033.



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MAG-29 Tip of the Spear

Marines make tent city home

Cpl. Theresa E. Seng correspondent

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION JALIBAH, Iraq-- The Marines of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing have gone into an uninhabitable area and made it home.

One of those Marines is Staff Sgt. Angelica M. Figueroa, Marine Aircraft Group-29 armory officer and staff noncommissioned officer in charge of tent set up.

Marine Wing support Squadron-373 came up with the layout for the tent city and Figueroa spearheaded building the section designated for MAG-29. In 17 days she and her "tent crew" put up 101 tents, sometimes putting up 18 in one day.

Once the Marines got it down to a science it only took about 15 minutes to put up one tent, said Figueroa.

"When I first got here there was nothing," she said. "Not a tree, not a building, nothing. I could see there was a lot of hard work ahead of us, but it's been motivating. Now we have an entire base set up and it's because of diligence of the working parties."

Figueroa was picked to head up the tent crews because of her outstanding leadership abilities, said

Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey S. Christie, MAG-29 logistics chief. She can take a group of Marines and accomplish almost any mission. She takes on a motherly attitude with the junior Marines, which they really respond to, and can get them to do anything.

"It was hard work, but the staff sergeant made it fun," said Sgt. Jennifer N. Kelton, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-162 administrative noncommissioned officer in charge, who volunteered to help put up tents. "She motivated us and has a great leadership style. Marines just want to work for her."

Even though the heat and sun may seem daunting, Figueroa got the Marines to take the task at hand and made the best of it. They all laughed, joked, took turns and at the end of the day all that mattered to them was a job well done.

Figueroa even turned it into a competition between the crews to see which one could put up the tents the fastest and who could drive a stake the fastest, said Christie.

Even though Figueroa made it fun Kelton knew it was one of the most impor-

tant jobs to be finished at the time.

"I volunteered because the Marines needed a place to sleep," Kelton said. "I also wanted to keep busy and do some physical labor."

Tent set up wasn't just Marines looking out for their friends in their own squadrons as Kelton also helped put up tents for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263 before they even arrived. They also built some furniture and filled sand bags so the tents wouldn't collapse in the wind.

"These Marines turned it into a learning experience, they understood being on this working party wasn't a punishment. It was a job that needed to be done in order for their fellow Marines to have a place to get out of the sun, wind and dust, said Figueroa. It really shows dedication to their fellow Marines."

This is the best of the Marine Corps right here, she said. "I really feel like I accomplished something, my mission."

Accomplishing the mission is something Figueroa is good at, said Christie. "We expected the set up to take three weeks, and she got it done in approximately two."



Cpl. Theresa E. Seng

Two CH53-E Super Stallions carry their external load on their way to resupply forward troops April 6.

Marines never leave anyone behind

Cpl. Theresa E. Seng correspondent

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION JALIBAH, Iraq-- Heroes are being made everyday and one more stepped out from behind the curtain March 29.

Captain Christian M. Ward, pilot training officer and CH-53E Super Stallion pilot for Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-464, was on a simple mission that day, to fly equipment into the forward operations base so Marines from Marine Aircraft Group-29 had supplies to set up their new home.

While on their way up to the FOB, approximately 20 miles southeast of where they were headed, he saw a highly mobile multi purpose wheeled vehicle and a retriever tank. Upon closer look Ward noticed two people in desert camouflage uniforms

waving their arms giving the distress signal and an S.O.S. written in the sand.

Ward said he radioed back to the sky chief their location and what they saw.

"All around them there were Bedouins and there was a white-pick up truck off in the distance coming towards them," he said. "Whoever they were a decision needed to be made fast."

At that point they lost communication with the sky boss without any guidance on whether to pick them up or not.

"We didn't know if it was an ambush or of they were really Americans in distress," Ward said. "As we tried to establish communication with them they wrote in the sand 'no comm for 7 days.' That message was a dead give away. I knew they had to be Americans. There was no doubt in my mind that Iraqis

could not know to write that. Coupled with the white truck I knew we had to help."

He sent the other aircraft down to pick them up with obvious instructions to keep a close eye on the strangers' actions, while he continued to circle the area keeping an eye on the white pickup truck and surrounding locals. While the other plane went in for a landing, the pickup turned around and drove away at high speed.

The men on the ground were soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division, said Ward.

"The story I got from them was one of the soldiers got the HMMWV stuck in the sand and the two went out with the tank to retrieve it. After attempts failed they were told to stay with the vehicles," he said. "Seven days later they were still there and out of food and water after they gave most of it to

the Bedouins. Their unit had already moved north."

Picking them up after the 'comm' message wasn't even a question, he said. Marines never leave anyone behind.

"I did what any pilot in my squadron would have done," said Ward assuredly. "I'm just glad that there are two moms back home with kids that have fathers coming home."

It didn't surprise Capt. Jacob M. Matt, future operations and Super Stallion pilot with HMMH-464, that Ward went on gut instinct that the two weren't the enemy.

"He's a great Marine, dynamic and intelligent, and I know he wouldn't have put the crews in danger," said Matt who's known Ward since 1997.

"Caution for the crew is the first priority, and he knew two Americans were in distress," he said.

This ain't no 9-5

Cpl. Theresa E. Seng correspondent

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION JALIBAH, Iraq-- There is no rest for the weary men and women of Marine Aircraft Group-29 as the mechanics for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-464 keep the CH-53E Super Stallions in the air.

As they face a phenomenal operational tempo the mechanics work in 12 hour shifts 24 hours a day in 100-degree temperatures. Their driving force is simple; keeping the aircraft flying to support fellow Marines fighting in forward areas.

The more hours the aircraft fly the quicker the inspection intervals come up, said Sgt. Jeremy C. Romash, Super Stallion mechanic with the HMMH-464 "Condors." The mechanics



Cpl. Theresa E. Seng

Sergeant Jeremy C. Romash, CH-53E mechanic, and his Marines from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-464 work on an engine from a CH-53E Super Stallion April 7. It is because of their constant hard work that HMMH-464 has been able to fly almost 50 percent of the missions, supporting our forward troops.

are constantly checking all the parts to make sure there are no problems. A tribute to the aircraft is that those inspections are only turning-up normal discrepancies, such as leaky hoses.

The demands of combat aviation require the mechanics to constantly inspect engines, rotor blades and gearboxes. As expected, one of the biggest challenges out in the desert is keeping the engines' compressors working well.

"It's a suck, squeeze, bang, blow theory with the engines," said Romash. The compressor sucks air into the engine forcing it to mix with the fuel, where it combusts and blows out the back of the engine giving the helicopter the power to lift those heavy loads the Super Stallion is famous for. Because of all the sand being sucked into the compressor out in the desert, they are fighting and winning a war against corrosion. The corrosion can inhibit airflow in the compressor causing a power decrease. With limited power, the gear that needs to get to the Marines in the field can't get there.

Luckily they only had to change seven out of the 39 engines on the aircraft they have, which is one more testament to the outstanding maintenance completed on a consistent basis.

"Because of our mechanics, 464 has been able to fly about 50 percent of the missions out here," said 1st Lt. Andrew T. Paynter, maintenance material control officer for the "Condors." "Out here the squadron is flying about 50 hours a day compared to the 10 hours per day they fly in the rear. Our guys are constantly working."

Even though working 12 hours a day, sometimes more, in the harsh conditions of the desert is tough, getting the correct parts is even tougher.

"[Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29] could only bring so many parts for all the aircraft they support so sometimes we have to cannibalize parts just to keep the aircraft mission ready," said Paynter. "This triples our work load though. Once we get the part we had to order we have to remove the borrowed part, put it back in the aircraft we took it from and put the new part in the other aircraft."

Being able to support the forward units, such as infantry and artillery, with food, water, ammunition, parts and fuel is the main objective of the Super Stallion squadrons. Because the mechanics of HMMH-464 working day and night the helicopters are able to carry the heaviest loads possible giving the best support they can.

"We are helping our guys stay in the fight," said Paynter. "That's the most important thing."



Cpl. Theresa E. Seng

Staff Sergeant Angelica M. Figueroa, Marine Aircraft Group-29 armory officer and staff noncommissioned officer in charge of tent set up, motivated her Marines to get 101 tents set up in under two weeks so all have a place to sleep.



# Getting Clocked

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society celebrated its Spring Semi-Annual Volunteer Awards and Recognition Ceremony held at the Station Officers' Club April 9. More than 70 volunteer spouses were recognized for their dedicated service to those in need. Some of the volunteers included crocheters, who made baby clothes and blankets; office staff and hourly volunteers that ranged from 100-3,000 hours. Katrina J. Farrell (right) receives a gold-trimmed clock from Col. Dennis T. Bartels, Station commanding officer, for a total of 3,000 hours volunteer service.



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

# MCCS heats up summer with activities

**Cpl. Wayne Campbell**  
correspondent

As the temperatures begin to rise and the sun begins to shine there is an urge to go outside and have some fun. Being stuck in the house or the barracks for a winter can make anybody go crazy. The Marine Corps Community Services here has already done all the dirty work to get the summer started.

"We are here for the families," said Richard Cole, MCCS Semper Fit director, "Especially now with all the Marines being deployed. We focused most of our activities toward the spouses and children."

According to Cole the month of May, which is employee health month, is full of activities.

Starting May 1 the Intramural Golf season begins. The Single Marine Program has a Brithaven Nursing Home trip scheduled for May 6.

For the whole family there is a magic show at the Station Theater May 10. May 10 also marks the beginning of the first Intramural Tennis Tournament for the air station.

The Intramural Basketball season begins the May 12 and the Armed Forces Day Softball Tournament takes place the May 16-18.

"The softball tournament is designed for intramural level players and must be designated as a team by the command for them to participate,"

said Cole.

May 21-22 the Single Marine Program has the Southwest Elementary School Fun Day scheduled. This an event where Marines go to the school and help out with activities for the whole school, according to Genevieve Wakefield, Single Marine Program coordinator.

The base pools open May 23 and the Gladiator Challenge for this year is planned to take place May 28.

To close out the month of May there is the first Intramural Cross-Country race the 29th.

"The month of June has a lot of things for the kids to keep busy," said Cole.

According to Cole there are two events in June that are planned but do not have solid dates. The first is The Karate Kids Camp, where kids will learn basic self-defense moves. The second event is an Aerob-a-thon, a three to four hour aerobics event to see who can do high and low impact training with some step aerobics the longest.

Starting off the month of June is swimming lessons taught by Red Cross certified instructors at the base pool and that begins June 2. Also every Monday in June is the Forrest Gump Summer Time Youth Table Tennis Tournament.

Beginning every Tuesday in June is the Kooped Up Kids Summer Time Hoops basketball games for children ages 6-15.

The Single Marine Program has a sea kayaking and camping trip scheduled for June 6-8. June 6 also starts off the Big Mike's Midnight Madness Basketball for teens ages 16-18, which continues every Friday in June.

The Intramural Horseshoe Tournament takes place June 9 and the Coca-Cola Classic Softball Tournament takes place the June 13-15.

"The Coca-Cola Classic Tournament is designed for players of all skill levels," said Cole. "We get players from the intramural level and the varsity level."

June 14 MCCS has scheduled the MCAS New River Family Fun Day.

The second bench press competition of the season takes place Jun 28 along with the Third Annual Car, Truck and Bike Show to finish off the month.

"There are also things that we offer all year round," Cole said. "MCCS offers free camping gear and sports equipment and at the Marina there are boats for rent for a minimal charge."

Corporal Donald L. Parker, Marina attendant, said the boating permits are easy to get. All that needs to be done for the basic boating licensee is watch a 30-45 minute video and take a 20-



Cpl. Wayne Campbell

**Liney Smith (left), Christian Dyer (center) and Cpl. Heather Dyer start off for a day of fun on a paddle boat rented from the marina.**

question test. For the advanced boating license, which is needed for the pontoon boat, a basic license is needed first then watch another video about 1 hour long and take another test and then a short boat-driving test.

Parker said for the sailboats a special license is needed which can be acquired at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

"Our mission is to serve everyone," said Cole. "If there are any fresh ideas come down to the MCCS offices and we will take them into consideration."

This summer when it seems like there is nothing to do just think of MCCS and there just might be an event going on that would be fun.

For more information about any of the events or services contact MCCS at (910) 449-5605.



## Awards for Marine Aircraft Group-26

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### Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals:

Maj Barry L. Enstice (HMM-261)  
Maj Karl E. Johnson (HMM-261)  
Maj David L. Forrester (HMM-261)  
Maj James D. Neal (HMM-261)  
Capt Michael S. Ducar (HMM-261)  
Navy Lt. Kenneth M. Patrick (HMM-261)

## It's Good to be Queen



Cpl. Wayne Campbell

In honor of their graduation, the members of Lifestyles Insight Networking Knowledge Skills, otherwise known as L.I.N.K.S., received crowns and pins during the Blossom Awards, at the New River Officer's Club, April 12.

# ON THE HOME FRONT

## Station organizations reach out to families

### *Extraordinary people find ways to help spouses of deployed*

**Master Sgt. Tim Shearer**  
Public Affairs Chief

When the balloon went up earlier this year, and thousands of Air Station Marines and Sailors headed to the Mid-East, a dedicated corps of support workers stepped up to the plate to ease the burdens and worries that family members were experiencing.

"There are so many people doing so much that it's hard to list them all," said Karen Slack, of the Personal Services Center on the Air Station. "Everyone who is involved in the family support structure here has made themselves available at night during weekends or whenever a family member has needed them."

That support ranges from counseling to childcare and from planning a chil-

dren's fun day to helping with financial hardships. All along the way there has been need to adjust and find ways to ensure families were taken care of, and it's gone literally without a glitch.

"This Air Station has a long history of taking care of our families when the Marines and Sailors deploy," said Col. Dennis Bartels, commanding officer. "We do it best, and people can learn from us."

Bartels added that the people at MCAS New River are and have been very people oriented. "We know whom we serve and our people know who we are and how to contact us ... and frequently do!" he said. "We provide and promote a family atmosphere and environment which establishes a better feeling of support and security for the spouses and families of our deployed

service men and women."

Outside of the ordinary stress that comes with deployments, counselors and other support services have had to find ways to cope with the added stress of this combat intensive deployment.

"We have to look past the brave front that families are putting up," said Slack. "Spouses and children are doing what has to be done, and sometimes trying to ignore the emotions associated with the dangers that their Marines and Sailors are facing. We try to be an outlet for stress and we try to find the families and help them to understand what is going on."

Finding spouses and getting them involved in activities is something that the people at Personal Services have mastered. Whether it is a family fun day or other group activities, they have reached and helped numerous people cope with this deployment. "We can't put an exact number on the people who have been involved in helping others, or on the number of people who seek out

our services," said Slack. "But we can say that demand for our regular services and the demand for special services has increased."

With combat operations winding down, and relief sweeping the nation, Slack and her crew are turning to something that everyone involved in deployments looks forward to. That is the reunions.

"People have experienced some dramatic changes in the months since they left New River," said Slack. "We are looking at the things we need to do to ensure they are ready for the day they are reunited. The Marine Corps made a statement in the past that the family structure is an important part of the Corps, and we are here to make sure that those families are taken care of."

Even with all the great support that has been offered, Slack is low key about the accomplishments.

"It takes everyone coming together to support the fighting force, we are just one part of that," she said.

## Useful Family Information

**FAMILY SERVICE CENTERS (FSC)MCAS**  
New River 449-6110, Camp Lejeune 451-3212, MCAS Cherry Point 466-4401.

**NAVY/MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY MCAS New River** 449-6642, Camp Lejeune 451-5584, MCAS Cherry Point 466-2031.

**AMERICAN RED CROSS TOLL FREE** 877-272-7337, Jacksonville 347-3581 (after hours) 347-5191, MCAS Cherry Point 466-3641.

**CHAPLAINS-AFTER HOURS CONTACT PMO** MCAS New River 449-6188, Camp Lejeune 451-2144 MCAS Cherry Point 466-4366.

**BASE STICKERS, ID CARDS, DEERS** 449-6354.

**JOINT LAW CENTER** 449-6169/7161.

**BRYNN MAR HOSPITAL 24 HR CRISIS LINE** 577-1900 or 800-822-9507.

**TRI-CARE APPOINTMENTS** 800-931-9501.

**ADVICE INFO LINE** 800-213-5453.

**CHILD CARE NEW RIVER CDC** 449-6712/6713. **FAMILY CHILD CARE** 449-6712/6713.

Drop-in Center, Hadnot Point 451-2874, Paradise Point 353-4788, TarawaTerrace 451-5458/5981, PEERS (free) limited spaces 938-5447, Cherry Point 466-3782/3783.

**USS SAIPAN CARELINE** Toll free 1-800-FSC-LINE and ask to be con-

nected to the SAIPAN Careline or for the Careline of a specific ship that your loved one is on. This has a weekly update (usually every Sat.) General Amos Messages1-866-676-0662 then press 4, Camp Lejeune Community & Family Assistance Hotline, 1-800-451-MCCS (6227).

**TRICARE HANDBOOK** The TRICARE Handbook is available on the TRICARE Web site: [www.tricare.osd.mil/TricareH](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/TricareH) andbook. Users can search for information on the TRI-CARE benefit either by subject search or general search. In addition, you can go right to sections in the Handbook using the interactive Table of Contents (TOC), as well as print out the online version in

its entirety.

The online version will be updated in real time, as changes occur.

**2D MAW FAMILY READINESS INFORMATION / REFERRAL LINE**

This help line has been established to provide family services and support information and referrals to families of deployed 2nd Marine Air Wing service members. This would apply to our squadrons. Call toll-free 1-866-242-0064 Mothers of Marines Resource for parents: The link below is an excellent resource for parents of Marines. The links area of the site provides great resources for information during this high 'optempo' period. [\[line.virtualave.net\]\(http://line.virtualave.net\) Managing Anxiety in Times of Crisis Visitors to the Managing Anxiety in Times of Crisis Web site: \[www.mental-health.samhsa.gov/cmhs/ChildrenAnxiety/\]\(http://www.mental-health.samhsa.gov/cmhs/ChildrenAnxiety/\) can get tips for parents, caregivers, and children about ways to communicate in times of crisis; locate local crisis referrals and national mental health sources and link to related publications and other Web sites. Anyone needing additional information, services, or materials to help understand and talk about the emotional effects of trauma can call SAMHSA's National Mental Health Information Center at 1-800-789-2647; \(TDD: 301-443-9006\)-service is provided by bilingual staff.](http://www.marinemomson-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)